

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 5, beginning on line 18, please enter the following amendment:

Fig. 4 is a graph depicting the relationship of Gel Bed Permeability and Centrifuge Retention Capacity.

On page 17, line 15, please substitute the following replacement paragraph:

As shown in ~~Graph 1, the graph~~ Figure 4, the drawing shows a relationship between gel bed permeability and centrifuge retention capacity. The products according to the invention with this outstanding combination of properties of very high GBP values, high CRC without an undesirably high shear modulus achieved by over crosslinking can be prepared without the use of toxicologically unacceptable substances.

On page 29, please delete line 8 and the Graph 1.

On page 30, beginning at line 1 please substitute the following replacement paragraph:

As can be seen in ~~Graph 1, Figure 4 shows~~ the typical relationship between retention as measured by centrifuge retention capacity and permeability as measured by GBP can be described approximately by $GBP = 54000e^{-0.2275x}$, where $x = CRC$. Permeabilities greater than $500 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$ are only achieved at very low retention values, that is CRCs of less than about 25 g/g. In the present invention, ~~Graph 1~~ Figure 4 shows an entirely different relationship exists between centrifuge retention capacity and permeability as measured as

GBP. Graph 1 Figure 4 shows much higher permeability at much higher CRC values. The permeability is often double, triple or even quadruple what was shown for prior art.